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## New York Daily Tribune FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 23.

# TWELVE PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Forrign.—The eighty-seventh anniversary of Emperor William's birthday was celebrated in Germany yesterday. - There is much anxiety over the fate of General Gordon in Khartoum. Richard Chamberlain has been selected as the Liberal candidate in Leicester. === The French Government has received a petition to terminate the present situation in Madagascar. — Much opposition is displayed to the police tax in Ireland. CONGRESS.—The Senate was not in session yesterday. Bills were reported in the House to

establish an assay office at Deadwood; for the return of the balance of the Chinese Indemnity Fund, and to provide one month's extra pay for certain employes of the House. The Pension Appropriation bill was reported to the House. The Bonded Whiskey bill was further debated. DOMESTIC,-Dr. Ezra Abbot, of Harvard University, died yesterday. —— Λ bank at Augusta, Ga., was robbed of \$2,200 in business hours. ——

Wheat went still lower in Chicago. === The first tow of the season came down the Hudson. === A girl in Reading is in a peculiar trance state. \_\_\_\_ A Pittsburg Alderman was arrested for disturbing worship, while drunk. - The second winter meeting of the Harvard Athletic Association was held. Experts unite in saying that the trouble with the cattle in Kansas is not foot and mouth disease. = A band of juvenile robbers in Baltimore was detected and broken up. === A bank at Boulder, Col., suspended.

CITY AND SUBURBAN .- The Citizen's Committee of Fifty-three decided yesterday to call another mass meeting at the Cooper Union. - The investigation of the Public Works Department was continued. - The Electric Candle Factory was consumed at a loss of \$250,000. \_\_\_ Joseph T. Clarke described the expedition to - The purity of Croton water was discussed before the Aqueduct Commissioners. The Commissioners of Accounts reported on the col lection of arrears of personal taxes. —— Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (41212 grains). 84.65 cents. Stocks were more active at small concessions in prices, and closed dull and weak.

THE WEATHER-TRIBUNE local observations in dicate clear or fair and warmer weather, followed by increasing cloudiness and chances of rain Temperature yesterday: Highest, 58°; lowest, 35° average, 484°.

The veterinary experts who have been investigating the matter state that the reports of the prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease in Kansas are false. Similar investigations made in Illinois and other Western States recently produced like results. It is about time that the circulation of such injurious false reports was stopped. --

The Emperor William as reason to feel proud of the universal reloicing in Germany yesterday over the celebration of his eightyseventh birthday. He was sixty-four when he formally ascended the Prussian throne in 1861. but since that time he has had an active career of almost a quarter of a century. From the period of his service with the armies that overthrew the First Napoleon to the present time he has witnessed a great change in the world's

Civil Service Reform. But the Massachusetts

Senate passed the bill, which is a copy of the one now before the Legislature at Albany, and the use of this money as the whites? The Gov
They are three our isolated system is in operation, but the Massachusetts but the thought cannot be avoided, how do we know that all of the Southern States would be a step in the opposite of the State in the state is no more than it is to extend this work. The gas companies have cut under us of course. Such was interests, commercial consumers and the work of the State is no more than it is to extend this work. The gas companies have cut in the total should be actioned the commercial consumers. The state is no more than it is to extend this work. The gas companies have cut in the total should be actioned here. The state should be actioned to the store than it is to be be of the State in the State in the State in the total should be actioned to the store than it is to extend this work. The same The Democrats in the Massachusetts Legis-

to loosen the hold of the politicians on Boston and other municipalities in the old Commonwealth. It will be well for the New-York Senate to act promptly on the like measure sent to it last week by the Assembly.

Such comparisons as those made by the testimony before the Senate Committee yesterday must be particularly odious to Mr. Thompson. They prove that under his administration it costs the city more than twice as much to clean a building as it costs other owners of property to do similar work; and everybody familiar with the buildings under Mr. Thompson's care knows that in point of cleanliness they will not stand comparison with any well-kept private building. The testimony taken yesterday also showed that in levying political assessments the Public Works Department did not even spare the widows and orphans. Street-sprinking routes left to support such helpless persons Government for aid in discharging municipal had to pay a per cent to Mr. Thompson's man.

The report made to the Mayor yesterday, in regard to the accounts of the Attorney for the Collection of Arrears of Personal Taxes, presents some interesting facts. In the seven years that E. D. Gale held that office, before his death in 1882, he paid into the city treasury only \$6,711. But in the last two years the city has received \$54,864 from that source. This makes clear the fact that Gale's defalcation was much larger than has been generally supposed. Had the Commissioners of Accounts done their duty, and discovered Mr. Gale's stealings when they began, or before his death, the city might have been saved a large amount of money. The report does not explain why the receipts of this office, during the year of the present incumbent's term, have been less than during the year his immediate predecessor held the office. It is to be hoped that political duties do not interfere with the collection of taxes; or is it because the present Tax Commissioners do their work more thoroughly than their predecessors?

The people of this State ought to know that a powerful lobby is now at work at Albany to defeat any straightforward, practical measure for the preservation of the Adirondack forests, and that some of the bills introduced in the Legislature are apparently nothing but hypocritical devices to prevent any action whatever on the subject. In another column the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which is faithfully endeavoring to secure the State against a great calamity, records its objections to several bills now before the Legislature, and briefly states the provisions which any bill must contain in order to meet its approval. Some of the opposition which the Chamber of Commerce Committee has encountered would doubtless disappear if the people's representatives at Albany could only be made to realize that there are public-spirited citizens who are willing, at their own expense, to expend time and effort for the public good, and that zeal does not always conceal a job. We invite special attention to the committee's letter.

It is highly desirable that public interest in legislation at Albany for the benefit of this city should not languish. For that reason the mass meeting to be held in Cooper Institute on Thursday night ought to be largely attended. The influence of the previous meeting, at which the Citizens' Committee of Fifty-three was appointed, has been beneficial at Albany, because it served to show to the rural members of the Legislature what the people of this city wanted. The meeting on Thursday night will approve worthy municipal measures now before the Legislature, along with such new bills as may e agreed upon. A bill ought to be prepared in accordance with the suggestion made by Professor Dwight yesterday, adding to the membership of the Board of Estimate. That body should have the sole right to determine the partment and the Commissioner of Public Works the right to expend millions of dollars annually without the authority of the Board of Estimate, ought to be repealed. It would be well to have the city budget made up in October, previous to the annual election, instead of in December, when there is less fear of the wrath of the taxpayers. A vigorous expression of public opinion in favor of such legislation will make it comparatively easy for the New-York members to secure favorable action at

THE FEDERAL SCHOOL-TEACHER. The Senate is debating day after day Senator Blair's educational bill, which, if it passes, will be, as its author terms it, one of the most important measures offered in Congress since the war. If the Government proposes to give a sum of \$105,000,000 to the common schools of the country, to be paid in ten annual instalments, beginning with fifteen millions and dropping a million a year, this action with the changes that it is likely to involve -in the relations of the National Government and the States, will be of great importance indeed. The first year under this bill every State and Territory will receive \$3 for each person over ten years of age who cannot read and \$2 41 for each person who cannot write. The distribution will be on the basis of the statistics of illiteracy in the census of 1880. The disbursement of the money is to be entirely in the hands of States and Territories, which are to render yearly reports, however, and to be liable to a withdrawal of the fund by the Executive subject to the action of Congress. The bill prescribes that the money shall be spent in teaching common-school studies, but for the benefit of States not really in need of help those receiving small amounts are allowed to expend them upon normal instruction, teachers' institutes, etc. The funds cannot be used for building school-houses. One feature of the bill which has caused a great deal of discussion in the Senate is that which requires States to spend during the first five years at least onethird as much for educational purposes as the amount received from the Government. This has been criticised as too low a figure, but the friends of the bill have resisted all efforts to increase the amounts to be raised by the States themselves, on the ground that the South is

It is admitted, of course, that the problem of illiteracy is a threatening one. The thought that more than 6,000,000 persons in this country, or about one-eighth of the entire population of the country, cannot write, is a terrible one, and so extraordinary a condition of affairs would seem to make an emergency calling for extraordinary measures. Yet there are many objections to be urged against the Blair bill, some of which lie also against any scheme of National aid to common schools. The Blair bill itself seems full of crudities and vagueness in the phraseology, which need not be indicated. There is no guarantee, and cannot well be one, that the money so distributed will

ernment cannot expect to control the use of this money after it has passed into the hands of the States, and the refusal of further enjoyment of it to any State would be an extreme stop for any Executive or any Congress to take. The Constitutional objection seems a serious one to many, though the "general welfare" clause can be stretched a great way. But it is fairly amusing to see how little this troubles the Southern Democrats, who were afraid of an appropriation of a few thousand dollars for pre venting the spread of a contagious cattle disease from State to State. The appropriation in this case is larger, and the State Rights theory looks smaller.

Whether there be any real Constitutional objection or not, the most serious fault to be found with all schemes of National aid to education is that it will teach the people, both in the North and South, to look to the National duties. The splendid school systems of the Northern States have grown out of the willingness of the people to tax themselves that their children might have knowledge. No greater absurdity can be imagined than that the State of New-York or Massachusetts should receive aid for its schools from the National Government. There was a great deal in Senator Piumb's terse remark the other day that what the South wanted to learn was "the grace to pay taxes," Louisiana and Kansas have almost exactly the same population and assessed valuation of property, but Louisiana raises barely one-third as much for schools as Kansas. The same comparison could be made with other Southern States. It would be a great misfortune if anything were done to emasculate the selfreliant spirit of any community. Any change which led the States to look toward the National Government as a dispenser of largess might involve more loss in one direction than gain in others.

GORDON IN THE SOUDAN. General Graham's force has halted since its second victory, awaiting instructions from London. The Ministers in their turn have been expeeting every day General Gordon's advice respecting future movements in the Soudan. A fortnight had elapsed since of ect news had been received from Khartoum, when yesterday the silence was broken. General Gordon is no longer making war in high-sounding proclamations. He is conducting an active campaign, and when the last dispatch left his camp he was intending to attack the main body of hostile natives who were threatening the safety of the city. His position does not appear to be critical, since his communications with the granaries in the South have not been interrupted and the force confronting him does not exceed 6,000 men. The expedition sent for the relief of Halfaya seems to have been ingeniously planned and successfully earried out. If General Gordon has taken the field he will not give the enemy time to mass a great force against him. His wonderful campaign in China was a series of rapid strokes and original expedients, and if he now has at his command a force upon whose fidelity he can depend he may give the world another exhibition of his military genius. He is not in a situation to advise the Liberal Ministry to abandon military operations in the Soudan. He will undoubtedly welcome any demonstration from Suakim which will serve to intimidate the rebellious Soudanese.

General Gordon, if victorious at Khartoum, may be able to extricate the Liberal Government from their present embarrassments. He was sent up the Nile to make arrangements for the evacuation of the Soudan. Upon his arrival he advised the Government to appoint Zobehr as his successor, and in this way to enable him to retire with the garrison. This proposal has startled the Liberal Ministry, but in reality it was the logical consequences of their own policy. In ordering the evacuation of the Sougross expenditures in all departments. All dan, they had surrendered it to the slave-special laws, such as those giving the Dock Detraders and cut it oil from European commerce. There was no inconsistency, therefore, in General Gordon's recommending the nomination of the arch-slave-trader of the Soudan as Sultan of Khartoum. If he had been asked to carry out his own and not the Government's programme, he would have taken measures for the permanent occupation of Khartoum and for the construction of a railway from Suakim to the Nile-a point which General Meigs, an authority on military railways, very ably discusses in another column of this issue. It is not probable that the Government will be willing to incur the odium of letting loose such a tiger as Zobehr in the heart of the Soudan. They will shrink from the responsibility of reorganizing the infamous slave traffic; and the only atternative they will have will be to retain Khartoum, with General Gordon as its absolute monarch.

The phrase "Sarawak the Soudan" has been invented by The Pall Mall Gazette, and the plan of operations advocated is similar to that followed by the Rajahs of that principality. In 1838 Sir James Brooke, arriving in Borneo, found that the natives had revolted against the Sultan of Brunei on account of oppression and slave raids. He mediated between the rebels and their sovereign, obtained a free grant of sixty miles of coast line, and with the consent of the natives became the absolute sovereign of Sarawak. For forty-six years a region as large as Scotland has been wisely and beneficially governed by this Englishman and his son without an army and without a European staff. If any Englishman can do this in the Soudan, it is General Gordon.

### ELECTIVE CITY OFFICERS.

There is danger that the Legislature may carry the elective principle too far, in its application to municipal offices. The bill to make the Controller elective which was passed Thursday, only meets public approval because that official is a member of the Board of Estimate. It is generally conceded that the Mayor should not have the absolute control over the \$34,000,000 of city money which is annually wrung from the taxpayers. Hence, the bills to make the Controller and the President of the Board of Aldermen elective meet with public approval. If they become law, one-half of the Board of Estimate will be independent of the

But there is no reason why the appointment of the Corporation Counsel or of any other It is to be hoped sincerely that Mr. Gladstone's official should be taken from the Mayor. If we are to have a responsible executive head, he pear. should, as far as possible, be permitted to choose his assistants. And the Corporation Counsel is merely an aid to the Mayor in the proper administration of the municipal government. We are less likely to get a good officer for that or any other department by election than by appointment. Public attention will be centred on the Mayor, and a worthy man for this place is fairly certain to be chosen. In fact, good men have generally been chosen for service in the Mayoralty, but they have been tied down by the Aldermen and in other ways. This has in a measure been remedied by the

ordinate places in this city are such as now fill the offices of Register, County Clerk and Sheriff. Senator Daly's proposition to make all the departments single-headed is also of questionable propriety. Certainly the Tax Department should not be placed under one head. No single person should be given the right to fix taxable valuations. The administration of the Commissioner of Public Works cannot be pointed out as an illustration of the advantage of a single head; nor can that of the Sheriff, County Clerk or Register. But there should not be more than three Commissioners in any department. That would prevent deadlocks. And no doubt in some of the departments it would be better to have only one Commissioner.

HOW WE PREPARE OUR SUCCESSORS. A correspondent in another column brings his perplexities concerning what he calls the new education to the bar of public opinion, and asks for a discussion of the important question of its effects upon the rising generation. He asserts that children nowaday : are brought up to think only of themselves, and he expresses the opinion that this kind of training is responsible for the increase of infelicitous marriages, and consequently for the prevalence of divorce and domestic misery. Of course it may be said that

any generalizations upon these subjects are sure to involve exaggeration; but, admitting this, there is certainly much truth in "Reformer's" account of the tendencies he refers to, and it cannot be altogether useless to give the subject some serious consideration.

Undoubtedly that method of training children which aims at smoothing their path so effectually that they learn nothing of self-sacrifice, self-repression or deterence to the wishes of others, must tend to cultivate in them the lowest forms of selfishness, must educate them in the belief that their individuality is of supreme importance, and must by consequence unfit them for the proper performance of those social and demestic duties which demand reciprocal surrenders at every step. The child who has been brought up without discipline, whose parents have indulged his every caprice, in whom the spirit of reverence has never been awakened, will be an offensive egotist, intolerant of contradiction in any form, and incapable of making any allowances for those who are brought in contact with him. Such children there are at the present day, beyond doubt, and the future prepared for them cannot be either

happy or prosperous. But it is when they come to marry that the most serious consequences of their vicious training appear. Two young people so brought up, and tied together by marriage, must inherit unusually sweet tempers if they do not speedily quarrel, and in the most hopeiess way. For with a training destitute of all instruction in self-abnegation, there is no basis for compromise or concession; and marriage is essentially a system of reciprocity, in which mutual surrender affords the only guarantee for happiness. Unselfishness is indeed the goal of all the higher philosophy, and the most modern doctrine only reproduces the fundamental axioms of Christianity in this respect. But there can be no altruism without experimental discipline, and those who have not learned in childhood and youth the great lesson of selfsacrifice are not likely to assimilate it in adult

The impatience of matrimonial friction which is one of the marked tendencies of the time may be traced to the too general deficiency of early training, and it would be easy to pursue the illustration into other relations of life, and to show how the same cultivated egotism intensities evil passions, paralyzes conscience, gives a venial aspect to immorality, and alike in polities, commerce and literature tends to magnify sordid and material inclinations and obscure and defeat more noble and elevating influences. The theory upon which the new education is based is in truth fatally defective in ascribing to undeveloped intelligence a capacity for inference which when it exists is the product of teaching and experience. Children are not unselfish, reverent, considerate, by nature, or very rarely; and unless they are taught these virtues, they will never possess them. Moral sussion cannot be relied on as the sole means of restraint. If it is so relied on the experiment ends in convincing the child that there is nothing to hinder it from doing as it pleases. This is how most of he attempts to adopt Herbert Spencer's sperious educational doctrine have hitherto resulted, and we now see the consequences of this philosophy in the deterioration of manners, in the abnormal development of egotism, and in the alarming increase of marital wrecks.

The attempt to dispense with the homely Christian virtues which our ancestors prized and practised has in fact not been successful. We have imported into our civilization a barbaric selfishness, an inflexibility of character which prevents harmonious assimilation, and an irreverence which gives fresh force to the materialism of the age, and which comes in aid of all the disintegrating and demoralizing agencies in operation. But most of all are the evil effects of this crude philosophy seen in the marriage relation, for there the very founda tions of the State are assailed, and in the disruption and degradation of the family bond the whole future of the Nation is threatened.

The recent alarm caused by a smoky chimney in the Hall of Records should remind the people of New-York that documents on which claims to thousands of millions of dollars rest are subject day and night to the risks involved in crowding them into an insecure building, too small, old, badly built, and in danger of fire at any time. The Grand Jury of which Mr. Simon Stevens was foreman made a thorough investigation of this subject in 1882. They had the building examined by a number of experts, and obtained the opinions of many officers of our great corporations, and other prominent citizens, whose investments are absolutely dependent for their value on the safe-keeping of the records of the Register's office. All agreed in urging that these precious documents should be protected by fire-proof quarters. It is reckless folly to delay making such provision for their security.

The Lancet's advice to Mr. Gladstone to accept a peerage has a somewhat cold-blooded look. It suggests the advice of a physician who, believing his patient's case hopeless, recommends those recreations and relaxations which every one understands to be a professional way of letting one down gently. condition is not so bad as The Lancet makes it ap-

The large seizure of "bob" yeal just made, added to the revelations of the bogus butter inquiry, indicate a widespread dishonesty in the purveying of food for the public which certainly justifies even more thorough investigations. It is believed, and not without grounds, that fraud and adulteration in food products have never been so rife as at present, and that almost incredible ingenuity is exercised in substituting shams for realities and cheap trash for more expensive wholesome material, in scores of ways. The supposed simple groceries, the meat, the bread, the very elements of physical life, are doctored and adulterated by commercial sharpers who appear to have no compunctions as to the possible

calcula ed that it took 700 shots to kill a man. The Germans in the war with France did much better than this, only firing 420 shots for each enemy killed. Even this seems a good deal of wasted ammunition, particularly when we reflect that an unloaded gun can be relied upon to kill at the first

Probably the graphic pen of Mr. Henry Watteron would be unequal to an adequate description of the present Democratic Congress. Dante and Milton having left no successors it is not tikely it will ever have full justice done it. But Watterson gives us a glimpse at the sulphureous chaos of it when he tells of the "weak-kneed Congressmen who, confused by the fetid atmosphere of the House, fancy there is no hereafter." That is to say, they cannot imagine any hereafter that will not be an improvement on this Democratic Congress. A distinguished soldier once expressed his appreciation of the State of Texas in the remark that "if he owned H—— and Texas, he would live in H--- and rent Texas," somehow thus, we presume, the "weak-kneed Congressmen" feel about the present Congress and

the "hereafter." Mr. Sargent has not only been invited to dine with Prince Bismarck but has been asked to a a sourée at the Emperor's palace in the evening. It can hardly be said that these civilities outweigh the insults to which our minister has been subjected by the "reptile press," but it may be concluded that the Chancellor wishes to demonstrate his intention to refrain from picking a quarrel with the

Some person of a statistical turn, and a disposi tion to add new terrors to death, has estimated that one in every 5,000 is buried alive. This cheerful observation was made in a paper recently read before the French Academy of Medicine, and it is said that as a result of it people are beginning to make provisions in their wills for having their hearts pierced by a competent surgeon before the coffin lids are screwed down. But it is a world of compensation after all. For every live man that goes underground there's at least one dead man walking round on top. Just think of the Democratic candidates for President since the war, Seymour, Tilden and Hancock! Nobody could be deader, and all of them above ground.

#### PERSONAL.

Senator and Mrs. Engene Hale have gone home from Washington to Ellsworth, Me., to open the costly new house which he has built on the hill overlooking that town. It has a commanding view of the Maine coast, with Mount Desert and other

Witliam H. Fogg, vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce, has been suffering from a severe at tack of pneumonia since last Tuesday. He is dan-gerously til at his home, No. 359 Fifth-ave., and it is thought that he may die to-day.

Augustus Schell, the well-known Democratic politician and president of the New-York Historical ociety, has been seriously ill with disease of the kidneys for seven weeks, at his home, No. 9 West Thirty-fourth-st. He has received the constant at endance of Dr. Egbert Guernzey. Three days ago he grew rapidly worse and has been hovering between life and death since then. Dr. Guernsey said late last night that Mr. Schell would probably live at least twenty-four hours longer, but that all hope of his rallying had been abandoned and death might take place at any moment.

Chess is often mentioned as the favorite game of great generals, diplomats and scholars; but the impler though perhaps not less pleasing game of heckers must have its innings on that score, too. Not only did Plate use it for philosophical illustration, and Cicero turn to it for mental diversion, and Frederick the Great spend hours over it, but in later days such leaders of men as Lincoln and Garibalds grized it highly; and it is said that, as his name sake's palace in Ithaca was the scene of many checker-contests, so General Grant used to "clear out the boys" at West Point at it, and indeed ascribes much of his military success to the training

of the sixty-four squares. Dr. Cox, vicar of the ancient church of St. Helen's Bishopgate, London, tells the origin of the fine window that has just been placed in that edifice to the memory of Shakespeare. He was one day showing a visitor about the church and telling him how the great dramatist once played at the Bull Inn, Bishopgate-st., and probably attended service now and then in this very church. "Then," cried the stranger, "why have you no window to his memory?" "Because" replied Dr. Cox, "we have no funds." "Then I will put one in myself," said the unknown, and he has kept his word. This gentleman resolutely declines to allow his name to be divulged; all that he wishes to be known is that he has a profound, laye for "Shakesmare, and that he has a profound love for Shakespeare, and that his daughter has recently gone upon the stage, where it is said she has met with a favorable receptica.

There really appears to have been no ground for ill the clatter of comment raised over Mile. Nevada's baptism and reception into the Roman Catholic Church. She was not a proselyte from Protestantism, but had never been connected with any church before, and she made the choice of faith deliberately and entirely on her own account. Curiously, the opera led her to the church, for it was while rendering the role—in "La Perle du Brésil"—of a wild Indian girl who becomes a convert to Christianity, that she was finally prompted to take that step herself in earnest. M. Gounde at first agreed to be her god father, but afterward declined, remembering that he had already stood as sponsor twelve times and wishing not to have anything to do with the fateful number thirteen. There seems to be no reason, either, to insinuate unworthy motives in Miss Wixom's choice of a godmother, as Mrs. Mackay had for many years been her most intimate and trusted friend. deliberately and entirely on her own account.

### TALKS ABOUT TOWN.

REAL ESTATE ON THE WEST SIDE. Beverly Ward, manager Commercial Advertiser.—I have becasion to know by inquiry and observation, and I pro diet a big boom in up-town real estate on the West Side this spring. Prices are away up, and investment will be brisk and large in that direction. A great deal of idle money will be brought into circulation, and all sorts of trading will be benefited by this coming activity.

GEORGE FULLER'S PLACE IN ART. Daniel Hun'ington, president National Academy of Design.—George Fuller's works forms an important element in our art. He was a man of remarkable fine character, and the news of his death pained me greatly. I have known him for many years, but of late have not seen much of him. In 1843 we were in Rome together. He was young then only twenty-one, but his character had formed, and he was drinking in all that was around him He had a vivid imagination and strong feeling, was very quiet and reserved, and naturally shy and sensitive-y he was independent, and one of the most amiable men l knew. He did not make friends rapidly, for it was no his nature to do, but those who did have his friendship knew how lovable his disposition was. He was not odd or eccentric, only retiring. In his artistic temperament he had a deep love for deep-toned effects—low, neutral tones, harmonious and rich. The lowness of tone found in the Venetian school and in Rembrandt and in Sir Joshua Reynolds appealed to him strongly; his feeling was for this element in art.

TOBACCO AND STOCKS IN AUSTRALIA. Robert Dixson, M. P., of Australia.-It may interes Americans to know that whereas formerly we were wholly dependent on this country for supplies of tobacco the two largest colonies are annually growing larger quantities, and that Victoria, the most populous co already produces enough to supply all her own wants. It is also interesting for you to know that in the early days of mining excitement we had all the "nice boys" from San Francisco over there, and that what they didn't teach us in stocks isn't known.

REPUBLICANS IN NORTH CAROLINA. Senator Vance, of North Carolina.-The Republicans o North Carolina are composed of Federal office-holders and negroes. No, that isn't exactly the fact. There are some quiet people Republicans, but they are not actively engaged in politics. The office-holders call the conven-tions and control the vote. They are for Arthur. The sentiment, however, is not all for Arthur. He sent in some nominations the other day for North Carolina which were rejected by the votes of the opposition, the anti-Arthur Senators, showing that the light is on. The in structions to the delegates to Chicago will be for Arthur,

PROGRESS OF ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

S. B. Eaton, president of the Edison Electric Light Company.—I have just returned from a visit to the small

troops since the Crimean war. At that time it was | What are we doing for New-York ! We are adding to the power at the downtown station. Our business there will average \$10,000 a month. A central station will be built this summer near Madison Square for house illumina-tion. We have also contracted to light the new Eden Music Park & Tilford's new store, and the Gorham silver-wave building in this city. Ninety per cent of our stock is held by five people, who do not trade in it.

#### GENERAL NOTES.

In two places in India, Ahmednuggur in 1882 nd Siroor in 1883, an extraordinary mortality awong ats prevailed simultaneously with choicra among buman seings. The disease which carried off the cats presented the same symptoms at both places, death resulting from swelling of the throat and asphyxia. During the first three weeks of July, 1882, about 750 cats died at Ahmednuggur and 300 died last June at Siroor. A series of official papers on the subject has been published and the Government has directed that, in case of any similar epidemic appearing among cats in future, careful observations shall be made with a view to determining the relation of the disease to cholera. The Strone epidemic commenced a week-after cholera had broken out, and ceased shortly after the cholera disappeared.

The first number of The American Coaster's Nantical Almanac, which is to be issued annually by the Bureau of Navigation at Washington, has just been published. The current number was prepared by Lieutenant E. W. Sturdy, Assistant Superintendent of The Nautical Almanae office, and contains a variety of information of Almanae office, and contains a variety of information of importance to masters of coasting vessels, such as tide tables for the Atlantic coast of the United States, giving the time of high water at various points on the coast for every day in the year 1884; a list of lights on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Eastport, Mc., to the Straits of Marcillan; directions for manesuring in cyclones in the North Atlantic; regulations for preventing collisions at sea, and instructions in regard to life-saving stations.

General W. B. Hazen, Chief Signal Officer of the Army, has issued a circular regarding mail matter for the members of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition. n which he says: "Letters for members of the Greely party may be sent to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, care of Commander Winfield S. Schley, U. S. Navy, to reach there not later than April 20. If correspondents prefer, letters may be sent, registered or otherwise, to the care of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, to reach Washington City not later than April 15; all such mail will be for warded to Commander Schley. Clothing and everything necessary for the comfort of the Greely party will be necessary for the comfort of the Greeny party with ob-taken up by the expedition. There will, therefore, be no need of sending articles of this description to any mem-bers of the party. For convenience of handling, in the event of the transfer of mail from one ship to another, it is desirable that the mail should be as limited in quan-tity as full communication with the parties will permit."

### A RAILROAD TO KHARTOUM.

GENERAL M. C. MEIGS'S PLAN FOR CHECKING EL MAHDI AND OPENING THE SOUDAN TO CIVIL-IZATION. to the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR: If the English Government intends to pre vent the religious enthusiasm lately aroused by the preaching of the new Prophet of Islam leading to its logical consequences, a new invasion of Europa and a new taking of Constantinople by the armies of Mahomet, they should at once set about building a railroad from Suakim or Massowah to Berber and to Khartoum. This a few years ago would have seemed an enormous or too costly undertaking. Our experience and the experience of Canada in building railroads penetrating an almost unin-babited wilderness, at the rate of a mile a day, may serve to show that it will probably be the cheapest and the quickest method of taking and holding possession of this country. It is cheaper to lay the track with iron than with bones. No money cost of the conquest of this immense region, which Islam now seeks to free from European influence and control, will appear great in view of the value of commerce to be developed by a few years of quiet occupation by a British force. The country is now almost the sole region which provides many articles of commerce, and if free from the ravages of slave razzias and the withering influence of Turkish satraps and taxgatherers, its production and its commerce would

Is it likely that without such a railroad a suffiient British force can advance and occupy at a rate of progress greater than a mile a day through an arid wilderness destitute of water, fuel and food? At this rate we passed the Humboldt Desert and the Deserts of the Colorado and the Gila, and at this rate American contractors will agree to build a railroad, if protected by British troops, from the littoral of the Red Sea to the Victoria and Albert vanzas, carrying along water, provisions and mu-ftions, and taking back the wounded and the disa-

The upper valley of the Nile is worth the cost of occupation by railroads, which in the interest of commerce and civilization and in defence of Christian nations must some day some be incurred; the The profilements of El Mahdi tian nations must some day, seek be incurred; the somer the better. The proclamations of El Mahdi have the same tone and the same ring as those of the Caliphs and Sultans who assailed, and of Mahomet II, who took Constantinople only 431 years ago. Then Islam overran Greece and Macedonia, and was checked finally by Sobieski and the combined forces of Christendom only under the walls of Vienna. A new anti-crusade has been inaugarated by El Mahdi. Let it be met by modern science; by a railroad to the Victoria Nyanza, the source of that ancient river whose hidden springs it was reserved for a Briton to unveil. Islam now deserves from Christendom no more sympathy than it deserved when its disciples first advanced to the banks of the Danube, their withering passage to which is still marked by rained and burned castles and villages not repaired to this day.

their withering passage to whiteh is still marked ruined and burned castles and villages not repaired to this day.

How long have the British been at Suakim, and what progress have they made? They are still at Suakim. At a mile a day it would have required twelve days to build a railread to Tamanich, the last battlefield, and with this railroad they could have remained there and been ready to push forward to Berber. As it is, a few hundred brave British soldiers and officers are dead, and a few thousand Moslems have gone to the arms of the Houris they expect to meet in Paradise, and will no more trouble the Christians or the Nubian slaves. But their places will be filled by others as brave, as devout, and as bloodthirsty as those who fought at Constantinopie and under the walls of Vienna, at Sinkat and at Tamanieb.

Our Pacific railroads have been built through hostile tribes, and on every line the Indian question is settled. It was by building twenty or thirty miles of railroad that we maintained Grant's army for many months before Petersburg. By building a railroad now, England can put down the Islamite rising, and she can do so probably by no quicker and cheaper plan of operations.

\*\*Mashinglon\*\*, March 21, 1884.\*\*

### TO PRESERVE THE ADIRONDACKS. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE STATES THE ESSENTIAL STEPS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: The statement telegraphed from Albany has been published several days ago in the columns of THE TRIBUNE that the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce upon the preservation of the Adirondack Ferests favors a bill prepared by Mr. Ely, which the Committee on Public Lands has voted to report favorably to the Assembly. This statement has been made without any authority from the Committee. The Committee does not approve of Mr. Ely's bill. This, as reported, leaves the case of the forests belonging to the State in the hands of the Controller, who has already sufficient power to appoint agents or other guardians of the forests as may seem necessary to him. This bill really adds nothing to his power or authority, and seems to be nothing but another device to prevent legislation

to preserve and protect the forests. Another bill, proposed by Mr. Boynton of Essex, and iso reported by the Public Lands Committee, differs but ittle from the Ely bill; and its passage in its present form cannot be followed by any good results

The Chamber of Commerce is also unwilling to indorse a bill prepared by Mr. Lansing and reported favorably into the Senate for the Committee of Finance. Mr. Lansing's bill contains none of the important provisions embraced in the Compromise bill, that he agreed some weeks ago to report, and is not calculated to advance the preservation of the forests. Under it provisions no security is provided for the State property in the Adirondack region which it does not already enjoy under the present system, while the expense of administration is creatly increased by the appointment of a useless Com-

mission.

The Chamber of Commerce cannot approve of any Adirondack bill which does not provide for the appointment of a Commission of three members, with abundant authority to manage the forests belonging to the State in therity to manage the forests belonging to the State III
the Adirondack region; to inaugurate and put into exceution a system of forestry under which the permanency
and usefulness of the State forests may be maintained;
and to make a careful and scientific examination
of the whole region, including its forests and the
water courses, with the view of determining what
further legislation it any may be necessary to secure an
abundant supply of atwer to the rivers and canals of our
State.